

## Fern Gardening Tips

- Understand the natural growing conditions for each species you desire to grow; consider the exposure and soil moisture each prefers.
- Rely on native species to be more successful and adaptable.
- Soil enhancement, if necessary, should be organic, gradual and consistent; deciduous leaves are recommended as mulch.
- Attempt to re-create the setting where each type of fern likes to grow in the wild: singularly or in patches, on or associated with rocks or logs, etc.
- Once ferns are established, avoid disturbing the soil around them.
- Digging ferns from the wild is not recommended...
  - \* The fern's essential, symbiotic association with mycorrhizal fungi is destroyed when it is removed from the wild location and recovery is difficult and often unsuccessful.
  - \* Development trends have already reduced native fern populations and digging from the wild may have the same effect.
- Visit the Willa Hamner Bates Fern Garden at the Warner Park Nature Center.



Glade Fern

## Memorial

This garden is a memorial to Willa Hamner Bates (1917-2000). She was the wife of John William Bates and the mother of Lenda DuBose and Georgeanne Chapman. Both John and Willa loved the Warner Park Nature Center and its staff.

Mrs. Bates grew up in Dyersburg, Tenn., the daughter of Lorenzo Dow Hamner and Mattie Lou Barret Hamner. She attended Hollins College and was graduated from Vanderbilt University. She was a wonderful wife, mother and loyal friend who was always ready to listen and appreciated the simple joys of life. She nurtured a garden on her Tennessee rocky slope and coaxed its flowers to bloom. She pocketed rocks, odd leaves and abandoned bird feathers. She was good humored, never complaining, and consistently accepting of others. Though quiet and gentle, she had a playfully mischievous wit that surprised and delighted friends and family.

It is hoped that this garden will be a place of discovery of the wealth of living things present in the Warner Parks and that peace and hope is found amid the rocks, ferns and mosses here.

Brochure, including drawings  
and photographs by  
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2003, updated 2007, 2012



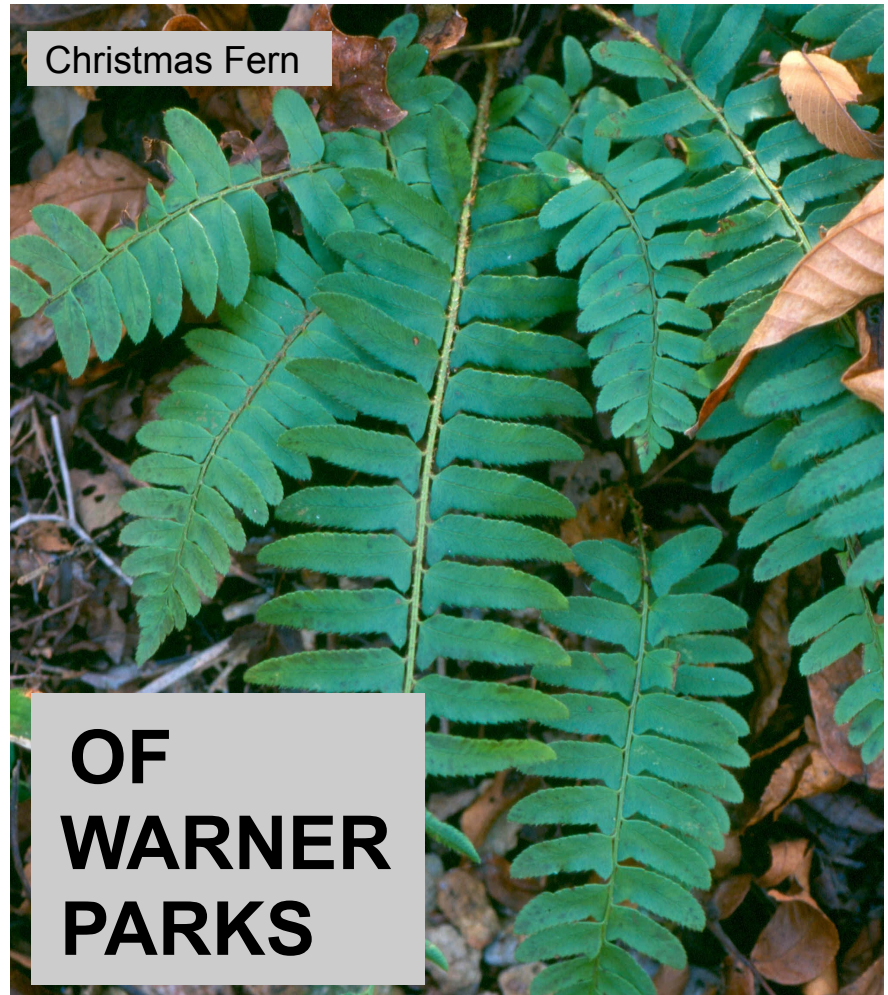
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# F E R N S

## Maidenhair Ferns

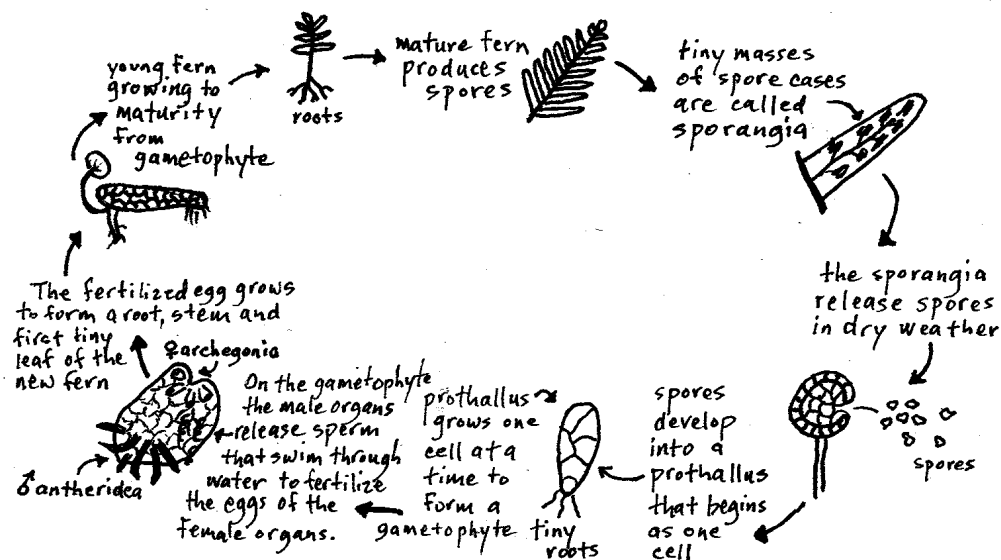


## Christmas Fern

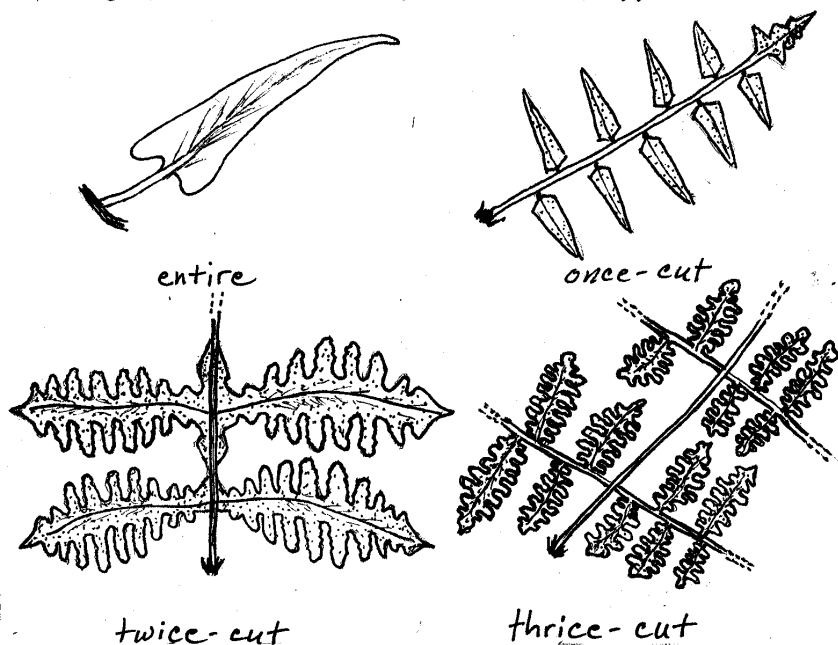


# OF WARNER PARKS

# A FERN'S LIFE CYCLE



## LEAF ARRANGEMENT



## FERNS OF THE WARNER PARKS

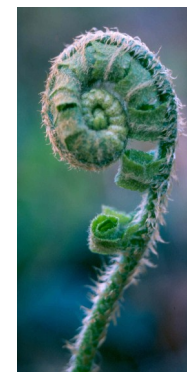
Remember: Collecting flora in Warner Parks is strictly prohibited. Please help protect this natural area.

### GRAPE FERN GROUP Ophioglossaceae Family

- Do not produce fiddleheads as the new leaves grow.
  - Spores are produced on a separate stalk from the leaves.
- Common Adder's Tongue Fern *Ophioglossum vulgatum*  
Single, entire leaf; 6" high; deciduous; prefers moist, shaded woods, bottomlands and rich soil.
  - Rattlesnake Fern *Botrychium virginianum*  
Three leaves, each thrice-cut; 8-20" high; deciduous; spore stalk produced in the spring; prefers rich, shaded, moist or dry woods.
  - Leathery Grape Fern *Botrychium multifidum*  
Single leaf cut into 3-5 sections, each thrice-cut; 6-8" high; evergreen (new leaf appears before old leaf withers); spore stalk produced in fall; likes moist, shaded woods.

### TRUE FERN GROUP Polypodiaceae Family

- All produce fiddleheads as the new leaves grow.
  - Most produce spores on undersides of the leaves, some produce separate spore stalk.
- Resurrection Fern *Polypodium polypodioides*  
Single leaf once-cut; 5" high; evergreen (though in drought becoming shriveled and reviving with moisture); growing on rock outcroppings or large tree branches, especially oaks.
  - Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum pedatum*  
Leaves on curved black stem, thrice-cut; 15" high; deciduous, found in moist or dry, sunny or shady areas.
  - Ebony Spleenwort *Asplenium platyneuron*  
Leaves once-cut with black stem; 8-20" high; evergreen; prefers moist, shaded woods but occurs in meadows as well.
  - Walking Fern *Asplenium rhizophyllum*  
Leaf entire, some lengthening to produce plantlets at their tips; 4-8" long; evergreen; most often found on moist, shady rocks, outcroppings and ledges.
  - Glade Fern, Narrow-leaved Spleenwort *Athyrium pycnocarpon*  
Leaf once-cut; 3-4' tall; deciduous; prefers moist, rich woods and filtered sunlight.
  - Fragile Fern *Cystopteris protrusa*  
Leaf thrice-cut; 6-18" tall; deciduous; forms patches in rich shaded woods.
  - Blunt-lobed Woodsia *Woodsia obtusa*  
Leaf twice-cut; 15" tall; evergreen sterile leaves, deciduous fertile leaves; likes dry rocky, shady banks and cliffs.
  - Broad Beech Fern *Thelypteris hexagonoptera*  
Leaf twice-cut with triangular outline; mostly 8-10" high but may be 2' tall; deciduous; likes moist or dry, rich, open spots in woods.
  - Christmas Fern *Polystichum acrostichoides*  
Leaf once-cut; up to 3' tall; evergreen; likes moist or dry, usually shaded woods.



fiddlehead